



FIREWISE USA
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

Date: October 6, 2021

To: LACC Board of Directors

Cc: Scott Devereaux, LACC General Manager

From: LACC Firewise Committee, Penny Leinwander, Chair

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to be 'PL'.

SUBJECT: FIREWISE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTIONS

The Firewise Committee members are very appreciative of your support of our efforts to improve the fire safety within the Lake Almanor Country Club. The committee will continue to provide educational opportunities to the community on evacuation guidelines, home hardening, and creating a defensible space around the home.

The California Department of Forestry has created general guidelines for creating defensible space around a home, and in this document there are alternatives to requiring tree spacing, which could require the costly removal of large trees (See attached). Butte County has adopted defensible space requirements that focus on defending your home from flying embers and reducing the heat and spread of flames, with limited requirements of tree removals. I have included the Butte County flyer as an attachment also.

The Firewise Committee is currently working on presenting a workshop on all aspects of a fire safety community program where other HOA programs will be reviewed, State and County requirements will be evaluated, discussions on changes to the LACC governing documents will be facilitated, and options and recommendations on possible enforcement options can be evaluated. Additionally, we will be looking at different ways to fund fuels reduction work in the most critical fire risk areas in our community.

Another aspect of improving our level of fire safety in our community is that all our efforts could be rewarded with lower home insurance rates, or in not losing private home insurance. The CA Department of Insurance recently held a workshop on proposed regulations where insurance companies would have to consider both community-level and property level mitigation efforts.

These proposed regulations are under Insurance regulation - Article 4. Determination of Reasonable Rates and would revise Section 2644.9. The status of this proposal was not immediately located, however, here is the pertinent excerpt:

Section 2644.9 (d) Use of Mandatory Factors.

(1) No insurer shall use a rating plan or wildfire risk model that does not consider and take into account the following mandatory factors:

(A) Community-level mitigation efforts: The rating plan's, or any wildfire risk model's, output shall reflect the reduced wildfire risk resulting from community-level mitigation efforts. Specifically, the rating plan and any wildfire risk model shall take into account:

1. To the extent applicable, the fact that a particular community has a Fire Safe Council, participates in or is certified by another nonprofit fire safety organization, or employs a defensible space program including, but not limited to, a program developed by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
2. The degree to which the community uses firebreaks, fire-watch efforts or other measures that may reduce individual exposure to wildfire loss.
3. Any community-wide wildfire mitigation standards issued by the State of California and implemented by the community in question.
4. The degree to which building codes implementing wildfire mitigation measures in wildfire-prone areas are stringent, and the extent to which there is widespread adherence to such building codes in the community in question.

Your immediate action on endorsing work on a defensible space program for LACC is appreciated and brings our community one step closer to being a "fire adaptive community". Please note that the Firewise Committee will be voting on this issue, and therefore, there may be improvements that will be provided at the October 16, 2021 board meeting.

Please feel free to call me at (916)835-1549 if you have any questions.

Attachments:

Butte County Defensible Space Requirements – Flyer

Board of Forestry General Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space (February 6, 2006)

Cal Fire LE-100 (3/17)